

USA GYMNASTICS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USA GYMNASTICS

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SUMMER/OCTOBER 1995

VOLUME 27, #5

MALONEY
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WINS THREE-PEAT

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DEPARTMENTS

INSIDE USA GYMNASTICS	6
MY FAVORITE COMPETITION	11
BODY BALANCE	16
GYMNASTICS RESULTS	18
EVENT SCHEDULE	20
FACES IN THE GYM	32
CHALK TALK	33
SCRAPBOOK OF CHAMPIONS	34
GYMNASTICS UPDATE	38
CLASSIFIED	42

FEATURES

GEARWILL GAMES

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American gymnasts won nine medals, including five gold, at the 1998 Goodwill Games competing against the best gymnasts in the world. Dominique Moceanu won the all-around title making her the first American gymnast to accomplish this feat. Blane Wilson earned third in the all-around behind the first and second place finishers at the 1997 World Championships, Ivan Ilyakov and Aleksandr Bondarchuk. Other American gold medalists include Vanessa Atiles, Ksenia Maloney and Chellsie LaMotte.

PACIFIC ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

13

Kristen Makonkey won the all-around and led her team to the gold medal at the Pacific Allstars Championships held in Winnipeg, Canada. Yvonne After grabbed two gold medals on vault and floor. The USA's top athlete Blaine Wilson was hampered by injury and had to withdraw from one event during the team competition, yet the USA men's team still earned the bronze medal.

JUNIOR PAN AMERICAN GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA gymnasts won the team gold medals in men's, women's and rhythmic gymnastics. Zach Roberts, Paul Hamm, and Brett McClane earned the all-around while Morgan White and Kristen Thomé earned second and third. In the rhythmic competition, Jessica Howard took first and Danielle LaMotte took third. In addition to the team and all-around success, the USA gymnasts also earned 25 individual event titles in men's, women's and rhythmic gymnastics.

**JOHN HANCOCK U.S.
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The logo for the John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships. It features the text "John Hancock" at the top, "U.S. GYMNASTICS" in the center, and "CHAMPIONSHIPS" below it. The background is a stylized illustration of a gymnast in mid-air, performing a routine on a pommel horse.

INDUSTRY GROUPS

MEET THE NATIONAL TEAM

25

Read about the top 20 women and top 14 men who made the USA Senior National Team at the John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships. You'll learn a few details about each one including how old they are, where they live, and where they train!

USA GYMNASTICS CONGRESS

96

The 1958 USA Gymnastics Congress was held in Indianapolis, Ind., in conjunction with the John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Champion ships. The Exhibition Hall was bigger and better than ever and there were more than 50 sessions occurring throughout the three-day event. The Hall of Fame and Ceremony of Honor Awards were also presented.



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Robert V. Colaresi
President of USA Gymnastics

The USA National Team gymnasts have enjoyed tremendous success in competitions during the last two months, beginning with the stellar performances at the Senior Pacific Alliance, Junior Pan American Gymnastics Championships and, of course, the nine medals earned at the Goodwill Games, competing against the best in the world! The summer gymnastics events concluded with the John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships where **Kristen Maloney** became the National Champion for women, the first Parkettes gymnast to win the title since Jennifer Sey in 1986. **Blane Wilson** earned his third national all-around title for the men, the first gymnast to accomplish this "three-peat" since World Champion Kurt Thomas in 1986-78.

The Junior National Championships competition was equally exciting, with **Morgan White** earning the women's title and the two junior men's titles going to **Raj Bhanderi** in the 16-18 age group and **Zach Roberts** winning the 14-15 age group rifle.

Other highlights of the National Championships include the successful comeback of 1991 World Champion **Kris Zbrodak** to earn a spot on the 1996-99 USA National team. Zbrodak, 22, retired from gymnastics after earning the team bronze medal at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona and last competed in a National Championships less than one year ago.

It was great to see 1996 Olympic Gold Medalist **Dominique Moceanu** back in action, winning the all-around gold medal at the Goodwill Games and taking third all-around at Champs de Jeux.

Also, **Brent Kious** scored the first 10.00 in event finals at a USA Gymnastics National Championships using a handspring double layout on vault. Hard to believe it was no

Inside
100
domestic

The logo for USA Gymnastics 2000. It features the text "USA GYMNASTICS" in a bold, sans-serif font at the top. Below it is the year "2000" in a large, stylized, blocky font. Underneath the year, the words "GETTING ON TRACK" are written in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the word "FOR SYDNEY" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

Flake, Klemis nailed the vault again during all-around finals to score a 9.925.

Eighteen-year old **Jason Gibson** made a tremendous comeback to earn second all-around to his teammate **Wilson** at the National Championships. **Jay Thornton** earned third all-around to make it a U.S. Olympic Training Center sweep in the all-around competition.

Vivian Aler stunned the crowd with her new fast tumbling pass on floor, double layout, rimmed one punch front, double stag jump, to win the floor title. After falling off bars twice during the preliminary competition at the National Championships, Aler scored a 9.80 on bars during trials to move from sixth all-around to second, challenging Maloney for the gold medal in the all-around.

Congratulations to all the gymnasts on their success during the past two months! During the President's Assembly at the USA Gymnastics National Congress I spoke of my goals for USA Gymnastics as the new president. My goals are threefold: to win medals, increase visibility and grow the sport! It looks like things are right on target and in order to continue one level of performance, we must work together united in our purpose and efforts to meet our goals.

I challenge each and every one of you to strive for your personal best, whether you're an athlete, coach, judge, administrator or parent. We must move forward as the guardians of our sport to strive and improve. All great endeavors begin with individual effort. Together we can achieve greatness, and with it take USA Gymnastics to new and exciting levels of achievement!

for Classes
Robert V. Coluccio
President of HSA Corporation

AMERICAN GYMNASTS STRUCK GOLD AT THE 1998 GOODWILL GAMES

By Craig Behrert
and Tom Peacock

at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in New York, winning **nine** medals in all—**five** gold, **two** silver and **two** bronze.

Dominique Moceanu became the first non-Russian woman to win a Goodwill Games all-around gold medal. "I've always dreamed of this moment," said Moceanu, who wiped away tears as the Star Spangled Banner played in her honor. "I was always hoping this would happen someday. I'm coming back after a really rough time. After what I've been through, this means so much more."

1996 Olympic Gold Medalist Moceanu led the star-studded field from her very first event, bars, to tally a score of 38.662, easily outdistancing Romanians Maria Olaru and Simona Amariei, who placed second and third, respectively. Moceanu gave tremendous praise to her coach of the last seven months, Lorraine Mysmero.

"She has helped me so much with everything," Moceanu said, "with my outlook on life and outlook on everything in general. She put me back on track, and I couldn't have done this without her."

Dominique Moceanu

NY 98

Golden Melody



BAKU 1996 (AP/WIDEWORLD)

Chris Lafferty

PHOTO BY DAVID J. PHILPOT FOR USA GYMNASTICS

"I've always dreamed of this moment," said Moceanu, who wiped away tears as the Star Spangled Banner played in her honor. **"I was always hoping this would happen someday. I'm coming back after a really rough time. After what I've been through, this means so much more."**

Sensi Sigurðar, the other USA eventer, battled back after hyperextending both of her knees during a warm-up vault before the competition to place fifth with a score of 37.587.

During event finals, Vanessa Atler grabbed the gold medals on vault and floor to join an elite group of women's gymnasts who have won two golds in a single Goodwill Games. "This is a good confidence builder for the Sydney Olympic Games and the upcoming John Hancock U.S. Championships," said Atler.

While vault was the site of the USA's best result of the evening, it also was the backdrop of the most sobering moment of the Games. China's Song Lin was injured during warm-ups. She was transported to an area hospital where examination indicated a fracture and dislocation in her vertebrae. Song, 17, from Heze, China, won the Chinese national championship in vault last year.

Die Ray placed second on bars to reigning world champion Svetlana Khorkina, scoring 9.30. In a return to International amateur gymnastics, Olympic gold medalist Svetlana Davies placed fifth on bar after she was added as a last-minute substitution.

Kristen Maloney earned the gold medal on beam. "It's really nerve-wracking being left out in the rotation, especially when everyone hit so well in the beginning," she said. "I just tried to stay calm and focused and tried not to worry about what the others did."

On the men's side, barring a strong field and a sore shoulder, Blaine Wilson held on despite bubbles in his last two events to claim the bronze medal in the all-around. The gold medal went to reigning world champion Ivan Iankov of Belarus.

"It feels pretty good to come in here and compete against all of these great athletes and do as well as I did today," said Wilson.

Iankov, denied a chance at Olympic gold when his Achilles tendon snapped on the eve of the 1996 Olympic Games, took top honors with a score of 87.50. Iwan Bordonenko earned the silver with a 86.70, just ahead of Wilson's 86.65.

Wilson's bronze matched the best USA finish in the men's all-around, recorded by Lance Ringwald at the 1996 Goodwill Games. The other USA competitor, Scott Townsend, finished ninth with a 54.325.

Jay Thornton limited only to men's floor to take home a silver medal while Yvonne Tonita took the bronze medal in women's floor.

Chris LaMorte, who was competing in his first international competition since the 1986 World Championships, won the still rings with a score of



Blaine Wilson



Vanessa Atler



Ivan Iankov

9.10. "I haven't had a meet that family and friends could come to in a long time," said LaMorte. "Being second up and not having so many competitors to go, some of them pretty highly ranked ring men, I just didn't know if my score would hold up."

Ruslanov's Sergei Fedorchenko took first on vault with a 9.05. Chen Young finished sixth on vault and high bar with scores of 9.45 and 9.005, respectively.

China's Huang Xu scored his country's first gold of these Games by winning parallel bars with a score of 9.725. Trent Wells was fourth with a 9.63. Ivanov swung to a score of 9.725 on high bar, well ahead of Aleks Neman's 9.620 for second.

In rhythmic competition, Rassat Alm. Karayeva scored a 39.701 in the all-around to top the reigning world champion Yelena Vinichenko of Ukraine, who finished with a score of 38.462. The bronze all-around went to Yevgeniya Pavlova of Belarus. The USA's Kira Jeffress was eighth with a 38.375.

Kabayeva continued her dominance winning three of four individual events during finals, including hoop, clubs and ribbon. Vinichenko of the Ukraine won the gold medal in rope with a 38.808 score. Karayeva took the silver medal in the rope event with a score of 38.800.

With the five medals, Karayeva is the most decorated athlete of the 1996 Goodwill Games. She earned a sweep of all five golds in rhythmic by a mere .008.

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Step photos can be included. Send your entries to USA Gymnastics, "My Favorite Competition," P.O. American Room, Box 5, 2001 12th Ave., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46225.



We are Elizabeth Kuehne and Tricia Biles. We're 10 and Level 6. We're at George All-Stars in Alpharetta, Georgia. We transferred to this gym because our other team split up. The next year we transferred to Las Vegas, but our coaches competition because we did lots of competitions, we did great (our place came in third place) and we received a trophy and a large cookie cake. This is our last really big and fun meet with our old team. We have a special place in our hearts that we will always remember. To: T. & P. Biles (Tricia, Ashton, Emily, Madison, Amber, Cass, Tricia, Biles, Elizabeth Kuehne, Tricia, Elizabeth Manday, Jessica, Kennedy) -201.



My name is Trinity Jefferson and I'm a 14y old in gymnastics for only four years and just moved to Las Vegas. My coach is Jason Lu of Las Vegas Gymnastics Academy in Las Vegas. The Level 4 State Meet was my favorite competition because I won Gold, Silver and the all-around.



My name is Lauren Johnson and I'm coached by Douglas Tolosa and Marci Glantz at Northwest Gymnastics in Vancouver, Washington. I'm a 9 and completed Level 5 this past season. My favorite meet was the Jamboree in Seattle. It was my first meet ever and I took 3rd place overall in my age group. I also got more than double bags from the bumper club with a bonus bag in there!

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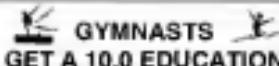
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PACIFIC ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Craig Behnert and Lucas Peruzzo

The 1998 Pacific Alliance Championships in Winnipeg, Canada, was held as a test event for the 1999 Pan American Championships.

On the women's side, Kristen Maloney shrugged off concerns about a stress fracture in her right fibula and won the all-around gold medal as she led the U.S. women's squad to the team gold. Maloney's score of 38.307 outdistanced Australian national champion Zerina McLaughlin, who took the silver with a 37.967. Janine Maloney on the medal stand for the USA was Sierra Atler, who earned the bronze medal with a 37.775. Vanessa Atler claimed fifth with a 37.025.

"My goal was to do the best I could for the team," said Maloney. "The stress fracture was a concern, but I've been working down my routines in practice to make it easy on the leg. It's nice to win the all-around, but the team gold means more to me. That was our goal coming into the meet, and we earned it as a team."

The USA women's team was led by head coach Donna Strauss and assistant coach Steve Rybeck. Strauss said, "This team has tremendous strength of personality, which was a key to our success. They were able to come together, shut out all distractions and do the best they could for the USA."

The USA team total of 113.987 was nearly two points ahead of Australia, which posted a 112.036. China was third at 111.499. The Americans had the highest team score in each of the four events, and Blue Ray matched China's Huang Mandan for the highest score of the evening, both posted a 9.80 on bar.

The U.S. gymnasts added three more medals in event finals. Atler earned two gold medals on vault and floor. She was joined on the medal podium by teammate Ray, who took a silver on bar, and Maloney tied for bronze on beam.

Kendall Beck showed great promise, but injured her knee during practice and was unable to compete all-around. She was able to contribute to the team score on vault.

The U.S.'s top athlete, Blaine Wilson, was hampered by injury and had to withdraw from one event during the team competition.

The strong U.S. men's team was still able to earn the bronze medal in the team competition with a score of 163.260. China claimed the gold medal with a team score of 167.100. Australia, behind the performance of all-around gold medalist Andrei Kravcov, was second with 163.575.

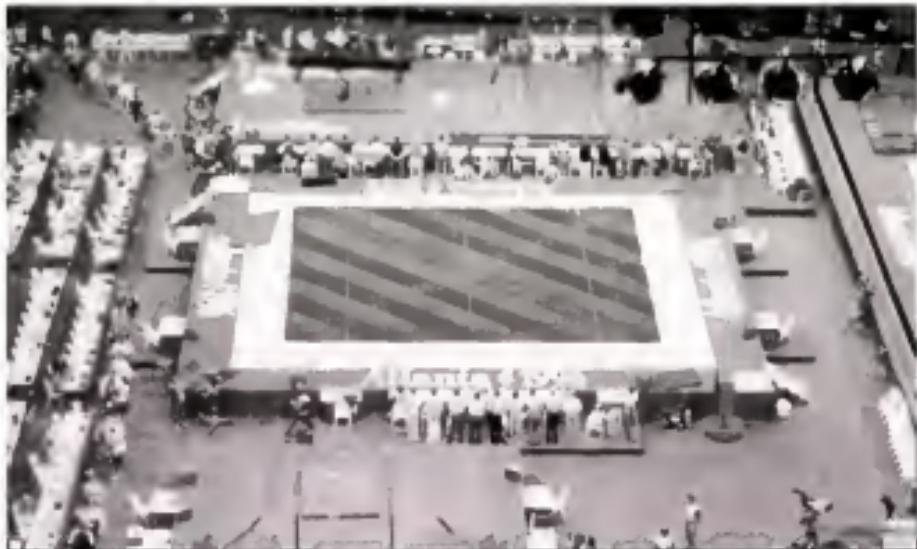
Due to Wilson's injury, two-time Olympian John Roethlisberger was the only USA gymnast eligible to compete in the all-around event. Roethlisberger placed seventh with a score of 52.850. The all-around gold went to Kravcov with a 53.300. China claimed the silver and bronze as Xing Aowen scored 55.000 and teammate Lu Bin had a 54.625.

During event finals, Yovia Lomita, one of the youngest competitors in the event, tied for the bronze medal in pommel horse with a score of 9.40.

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NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

More than 120 gymnasts from 14 states competed in the National High School Gymnastics Championships in Albany, New York. Texas was the men's state champion and New York won the women's title. Below are the top eight gymnasts in the all-around.

Men

1. Austin Rogers	Alabama
2. Brian Murphy	Ohio
3. Eric Schild	Connecticut
4. Scott Johnson	Connecticut
5. Eddie Schub	Alabama
6. Andrew Colby	Mass.
7. Jim Ries	Alabama
8. Scott Lewis	Mass.

Women

1. Dominique Moceanu	Texas
2. Brianne Beckman	Texas
3. Kristen Jones	Mass.
4. Kristin Johnson	Mass.
5. Kristin Johnson	Mass.
6. Kristin Johnson	Mass.
7. Kristin Johnson	Mass.
8. Kristin Johnson	Mass.





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SCHEDULE

Events & Events Subject to Change or Cancellation

OCTOBER

24	10th National Training Inv. (W)	Bedford, NY
31	10th National Training Inv. (M)	Florida, FL
31	10th Group Championships (X)	Desert's Edge, FL

NOVEMBER

10-12	Florida State National Championships (M)	MIAMI
13-15	Centex Invitational (M)	LSU
13-15	USA Gymnastics Executive Committee/Board Meeting	Indianapolis, IN

DECEMBER

5-6	Annual 10th Training Camp (W)	Idaho, OR
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JANUARY 1999

20	Florida Gymnastics Cup (M/W/X)	Phoenix, AZ
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FEBRUARY

10-12	USA Gymnastics Winter Cup Challenge (X)	Las Vegas, NV
13-14	Mythos Challenge (X)	Desert's Edge, FL
11-12	Arizona Classic (W)	MIAMI

MARCH

4-6	Florida Gymnastics Cup (M/W)	St. Petersburg, FL
7	International 3 on 3	St. Petersburg, FL
	Gymnastics Championships (M/W/X)	St. Petersburg, FL
14-17	International Team Championships (M/W/X) Sea/Orn)	St. Petersburg, FL
21-22	Level 10 State Meet (W)	Verona, WI
21-22	American Challenge (W)	MIAMI

APRIL

10	USA Regionals (W)	Verona, WI
10-11	10th National Championships Group/Ind. (W)	Syracuse, NY
14-18	Level 1/10 Regional Championships (W)	Verona, WI
14-18	Mythos Winter Open (W)	MIAMI
21-24	USA National Championships (W)	MIAMI
24-25	Level 10 Regional Championships (W)	Verona, WI
24-25	Mythos Winter Open (X)	MIAMI
21-22	USA Gymnastics Collegiate Championships (M/W)	MIAMI
21-22	USA Gymnastics National Invitational Tournament (W)	MIAMI

MAY

6-10	10th National Championships (W)	Houston, TX
7-11	Level 1 Inv/Adv Championships (W)	MIAMI
14-16	10th Level 10/Advanced Championships (W)	MIAMI
21-23	USA Gymnastics Executive Committee/Board Meeting	Indianapolis, IN

JUNE

10-12	Florida Cup (W)	Jacksonville, FL
24-27	10th Myths National Championships (W)	MIAMI
26	10th Challenge (W)	MIAMI

JULY

4-10	World Gymnastics (X)	Calgary, CAN
24-Aug. 1	Pan American Games (M/W/X)	Montreal, CAN
26	10th Clark/National Gymnastics Festival (W)	MIAMI

AUGUST

21-23	John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships (M/W)	Sacramento, CA
26-28	USA Gymnastics National Congress	Sacramento, CA
28	USA Gymnastics National Cup (X)	MIAMI

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BLAINE WILSON WINS THREE-PEAT

By Lynn Pezzati

Blaine Wilson, 24, won his third national all-around title at the 1998 John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Indianapolis, Ind., the first three-peat since Kurt Thomas accomplished the feat in 1976-78.

"I'm glad I won three in a row," said Wilson, who also won the Athlete and Sportsperson of the Year award. "It matters, but now I'm looking more towards a team medal in China at the 1999 World Championships and in Sydney at the 2000 Olympic Games."

Wilson, who also won the parallel bars gold medal, was surrounded by gymnasts on the medal platform: Jason Gideon, 18, and Jay Thornton, 23, earned second and third all-around, making it a US Olympic Training Center sweep.

USOTC Coach Lee Brant said, "It's definitely a great step forward, but my guys are not complacent. They know there's a lot of talent coming up and they have to work hard to maintain their position and to help the men's team earn a medal. We have a lot of work to do."

Gideon's second place finish is a tremendous comeback story. After having some back problems after the 1997 World Championships, Gideon was diagnosed with a stress fracture and a chronic back problem that doctors said could have come from birth. He was put on a strengthening program. While dealing with his back problems, Gideon decided to take care of a minor shoulder problem at the same time. He underwent surgery on both shoulders in January 1998.

"I feel a lot better this year," said Gideon. "I was out for about six months and got a lot stronger."

Gideon was also the only double gold medalist during event finals winning both floor and high bar with scores of 9.70 and 9.40, respectively.

When asked about the USOTC sweep in the all-around competition, Thornton said, "We feel like a college team. We all pull for each other. It's a great training environment."

Karen Mazzola of the Texas Sports Ranch was voted Coach of the Year by her peers. Mazzola's gymnasts Sean Townsend and Mike Durko finished fourth and sixth in the all-around. Michael Evans and Todd Thornton, who made the Junior National Team, are also coached by Mazzola.

"I was extremely pleased with my gymnasts," said Mazzola. "They all came through big and did a great job. I certainly couldn't have gotten coach of the year without those guys. It was quite an honor to get the award."

Another highlight of the competition was Brent Klaus' front hand-spring double from vault that earned the first perfect 10.00 in a USA Gymnastics National Championships competition during event finals. Needless to say, Klaus won the vaulting event.

"I was very surprised about my 10 on the vault," said Klaus. "I'm obviously pleased. It was nervous going into the competition and I'm excited about my vault." Klaus proved the vault was no fluke when he repeated it for a second time during all-around final and scored 9.925, just shy of a perfect score.



After posting the winning score of 9.735 on pommel horse, two-time Olympian Roethlisberger suffered a knee injury during vault and, two events later, had to scratch from the competition. Preliminary exams have indicated that he suffered a tear of the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. Roethlisberger was going for his fifth national all-around title.

University of Washington's Jeff Johnson scored a 9.65 to win the rings title, narrowly edging out defending national champion Wilson, who scored a 9.55. Johnson is a rings specialist and displayed great strength parts during his routine.

1998 JOHN HANCOCK U.S. GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jay Thornton

JUNIOR GYMNASTICS 24

KRISTEN MALONEY ON A WINNING STREAK

By Lynn Pezzek

Kristen Maloney continued her string of victories, winning the all-around title by nearly a full point at the John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis, August 19-22. Maloney is the first Parkettes' gymnast to win the title since Jennifer Sey in 1986.

"I'm speechless," said the 17-year-old champion from Pen Argyl, Pa. "It's really exciting."

Maloney has climbed the gymnastics ladder of success. In 1995 she took 26th all-around at Championships; in 1996 she was 16th; in 1997 she was fourth, and in 1998 she won the title, along with the help of her coaches, Bill and Donna Strauss and Jack Carter. This senior in high school also won the Athlete of the Year award for her second consecutive year and her teammates voted her Sportswoman of the Year as well.

Since 1997, Maloney has led every U.S. team and individual competition with the highest scores. Her contributions this year included American Cup, International Team Championships, Senior Pacific Alliance and Goodwill Games.

Vanessa Ader, 18, is from Canyon Country, Calif. and trains at Gliders with her coaches Steve and Beth Ryback. Ader, the defending national champion, had difficulties on bars during preliminaries and landed in sixth after Thursday's competition. However, she came back strong in finals, scoring a 9.80 on bars and climbed to second all-around.

"I was disappointed with Thursday's competition," said Ader. "I fell twice from bars and that's not how I train. I was glad I came back strong during finals."

Ader also displayed her new floor routine complete with a double lay out, punch front, double stag jump for her first pass and a nice triple full on the dismount. After scored a 9.85 during finals to win the floor title.

Olympic Gold Medalist Dominique Moceanu fought through a sore knee to finish third all-around and win both vault and beam during event finals. "I'm happy with being in the top three," said Moceanu. "It was just amazing being able to compete. It was a test to see how tough I was."

Sixteen year old Moceanu, who has grown from 4'5" to 5'2" since the 1996 Games, displayed a new maturity during the competition. She showed a new floor routine and a new coach, Luminaria Asuncion from Romania.

"I've worked hard the last six months," said Moceanu. "People don't know how much I've put into it. I've improved a lot of things I'm doing. Skills I never did before in my life."

Another great comeback story is 17-year-old Jenine Thompson Thompson, who along with Moceanu made the Junior National Team at



age 10, took fourth all-around in the competition. Thompson trains at Cincinnati Gymnastics Academy with coach Mary Lee Tracy.

"Overall I think I did pretty well," said Thompson. "I hit eight for eight routines, although I was a little shaky on beam. I'm happy where I finished."

A newcomer to the senior level, Elisa Ray from Hills Gymnastics in Gaithersburg, Md., finished fifth all-around and won bars with a score of 9.825. Sixteen year old Ray, from Columbia, Md., finished fourth all-around at the 1997 Junior National Championships.

A highlight to this year's Championships was watching 22 year old Kim Zmeskal make her successful comeback to the sport. Zmeskal, who was the first American to win the World Championships title, finished 11th all-around and secured a spot on the Senior Women's National Team.

"I had a six year break since my last Championships," said Zmeskal. "I'm enjoying gymnastics more. I applaud all these girls for doing amazing gymnastics. Competing tonight makes me excited. I loved being out here."

JUNIOR MEN

The junior men's competition was held on Wednesday afternoon. Any junior whose score was in the top 36 all-around, among the juniors and seniors, were eligible to enter the finals, held on Friday evening.

Nine junior men qualified to enter the all-around finals. According to the rules of the competition, the junior men would not be named until after the finals competition.

Zach Roberts from Mission Valley YMCA and coached by Steve Butcher won the 14-15 age group division and Ray Bhowar from Cypress Gymnastics won the 16-18 age group. Blawer, coached by Bill Foster, was last year's 16-18 year old champion.

Bhowar was asked to comment on being a two-time junior national champion. He said, "That was my plan coming in. I had doubts at one point in the competition but things started to fall back into place. It feels great."

Besides Bhowar, the other junior national team members in the 16-18 division are Christopher Zimmerman, Buffalo Grove; Michael Ashe, Atlanta School; Michael Evans, Texas Sports Ranch; Adam Berkmanis, Gold Cup; Daniel Furman, Alamo Gymnastics; Josh Landa, Bart Conner; and Shonien Correa, Gym Force.

In addition to Roberts the other junior national team members in the 14-15 division include Paul Horne, Swiss Turners; Todd Thornton, Texas Sports Ranch; Morgan Hennin, Swiss Turners; Jack Stevens, Bart Conner; Randy Monahan, Brunner's Gymnastics; and Jamey Housli, Jim Doggett.

JUNIOR WOMEN

Morgan White from Cheyenne Gymnastics earned the all-around title for the junior women in a close race with Ashley Postell from Capital Gymnastics in Virginia.

In fact, Postell was the leader after the preliminary competition scoring 37.462 to White's 37.382. However, White came back strong in finals, scoring a 9.80 on bars to clinch the title—74.462 to Postell's 74.349.

Eighteen-year-old White said, "I can't believe it. I'm so excited. It has been my goal all year. I thought I lost it after vault but I'm glad I won."

Twelve-year-old Postell said, "I was proud of myself. Even though I got second, I am still happy. I came in to the meet prepared and I just wanted to make the National Team."

White is coached by Mary Lee Tracy and Postell is coached by Tatjana Penkko.

Postell's Kristol Uzelac, 12, took third all-around with a score of 73.307. Uzelac was the top all-around gymnast during the finals competition, but after combining preliminary and finals scores she ranked third.

Rejoining the junior national team includes: Monique Change, Capital Va.; Angelia Bean, Bart Conner; Janice Cox, Southern Indiana Gymnastics; Michelle Evans, Cypress; Brittany Thorne, Cypress; Bessie Frisch, Cypress; Kate Heenan, Capital Va.; Annabel Ebens, Stein; Jewell Orlando, Karet; Stephanie Carter, Ricchet; Jackie Nguyen, West Valley; Tasha Schwikert, Gym City; Alliee Bradley, Cincinnati; Andie Fries, Dynamo; Marie Fjordholm, Cincinnati; Katie Hardman, Cypress; and Mylan Dadd, Cascade Elite.

1998 JOHN HANCOCK U.S. GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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MEET THE NATIONAL TEAM

By Leon Peacock

Twenty women and 14 men qualified to the USA Senior National Team at the 1998 John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships in Indianapolis, Ind. These gymnasts will represent the United States in national and international competitions during 1998 and 1999.

The average age of the Women's Senior National Team gymnasts is 18.5, while the average age of the men is 22.2.

A total of 16 states are represented by the members of the USA Senior Men's and Women's National Team. Six live in Texas as their home state while five members have ties to California. There are three each gymnasts from Connecticut, Ohio, and Virginia, two from Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and one each from Arizona, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Oregon and Oklahoma.

Below are a few facts on each of these outstanding gymnasts including where they live and train, how old they are, where they go to school and what they like to do in their spare time.

4

SEAN TOWNSEND

HOME/TOWN: Dallas, Texas

RESIDENCE: Houston, Texas

BIRTH DATE: June 26, 1977

AGE: 21

CLUB: Texas Sports Ranch

COACH: Kevin Moretti & Ben Belbeck

REGAN GYMNASTICS: 1990 (age 11)

FAVORITE EVENT: High bar

Hobbies: Playing pool, going out with friends



1

BLAINE WILSON

HOME/TOWN: Columbus, Ohio

RESIDENCE: Colorado Springs, Colo.

BIRTH DATE: Aug. 5, 1974

AGE: 24

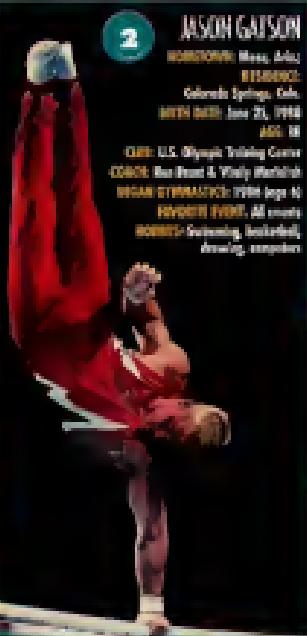
CLUB: U.S. Olympic Training Center

COACH: Ben Frost & Vicki Moretti

REGAN GYMNASTICS: 1991 (age 11)

FAVORITE EVENT: High bar, pommel horse

Hobbies: Playing soccer, lifting, golfing



2

JASON GAISON

HOME/TOWN: Mesa, Ariz.

RESIDENCE: Colorado Springs, Colo.

BIRTH DATE: June 21, 1976

AGE: 22

CLUB: U.S. Olympic Training Center

COACH: Ben Frost & Vicki Moretti

REGAN GYMNASTICS: 1990 (age 11)

FAVORITE EVENT: All-around

Hobbies: Swimming, basketball, drawing, computers

3

JAY THORNTON

HOME/TOWN: Augusta, Ga.

RESIDENCE: Colorado Springs, Colo.

BIRTH DATE: Sept. 5, 1976 (age 22)

AGE: 22

CLUB: U.S. Olympic Training Center

COACH: Ben Frost & Vicki Moretti

SCHOOL: Graduated from Univ. of Georgia

REGAN GYMNASTICS: 1992 (age 11)

FAVORITE EVENT: High bar, floor exercise

Hobbies: Swimming, basketball, playing poker

5

STEPHEN McGAH

HOME/TOWN: Houston, Texas

RESIDENCE: Los Angeles, Calif.

BIRTH DATE:

January 6, 1973

AGE: 25



CLUB: UCLA (COMB: Big Money School) WMA

REGAN GYMNASTICS: 1994 (age 16)

FAVORITE EVENT: High bar

Hobbies: Rock climbing, mountain biking, traps, computers

7

MIKE DUTKA

HOME/TOWN: Ardmore Hills, Pa.

RESIDENCE: Houston, Texas

BIRTH DATE:

Feb. 4, 1976

AGE: 22

CLUB: Texas Sports Ranch

COACH: Kevin Moretti

REGAN GYMNASTICS: 1991 (age 11)

FAVORITE EVENT: Parallel bars

Hobbies: Going out with friends

6

MIKE DUTKA

HOME/TOWN:

RESIDENCE:

BIRTH DATE:

Feb. 4, 1976

AGE: 22

CLUB:

COACH:

REGAN GYMNASTICS:

1991 (age 11)

FAVORITE EVENT:

Hobbies:

SENIOR MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM



1**KRISTEN MALONEY**

BORN: 1970 RESIDENCE: The Angel, Pa.
BIRTH DATE: March 10, 1970

AGE: 17

CLUB: Politec

COACH: Bill, Steve Strow
& Jeff Carter

SCHOOL:

The Angel High School

REGION: Gymnastics

1991: Age 10

FAVORITE EVENT:

Floor exercise

HABITS:

Sleeping, going out with friends

**ELISE RAY**

BORN/RESIDENCE: Colorado, Colo.
BIRTH DATE: Feb. 6, 1982

AGE: 16

CLUB: Bill's Angels

COACH: Bill Hill

SCHOOL:

West Valley High School

REGION: Gymnastics

1991: Age 10

FAVORITE EVENT: Bars

HABITS:

Sleeping, arts and crafts, going to the movies, spending time with family

5**VANESSA ATLER**

BORN/RESIDENCE: California
BIRTH DATE: Calif.

BIRTH DATE: Feb. 12, 1982

AGE: 16

CLUB: Charter Oak Gymn

COACH: Bill & Steve Strow

SCHOOL: Learning First

REGION: Gymnastics

1991: Age 12

FAVORITE EVENT:

Balance beam and uneven bars

HABITS:

Reading, swimming and shopping on the mall

**2****DOMINIQUE MOCEANU**

BORN/RESIDENCE: Hollywood, Calif.
BIRTH DATE: Houston, Texas

BIRTH DATE: Aug. 28, 1981

AGE: 17 (as Sept. 26)

CLUB: American Gymnastics, Inc.

COACH: Leslie Werner

SCHOOL: Northwest Christian

REGION: Gymnastics

1991: Age 10

FAVORITE EVENT: Floor exercise, balance beam

HABITS:

Reading, writing, dancing, singing, playing on her computer

**3**

BORN/RESIDENCE: Cincinnati, Ohio
BIRTH DATE: July 25, 1981

BIRTH DATE: July 25, 1981

AGE: 17

CLUB: Cincinnati Gymnastics Academy

COACH: Mary Lee, Troy L., Tracy Blue

SCHOOL: Cincinnati High School

REGION: Gymnastics

1991: Age 12

FAVORITE EVENT:

Vault, uneven bars, balance beam, floor, Medley, work

4**JENNIE THOMPSON****JEANNETTE ANTOLIN**

BORN/RESIDENCE: Franklin, Calif.
BIRTH DATE: Mountain View, Calif.

BIRTH DATE: Oct. 5, 1981

AGE: 17 (as Oct. 5)

CLUB: AGS

COACH: Dan Petras &

Edi Wimber-Beckum

SCHOOL: Mountain View High School

REGION: Gymnastics

1991: Age 10

FAVORITE EVENT: Bars

HABITS:

Watching 1 Love 1 Love, reading, singing and math, shopping, swimming, playing cards

6**7****JEANA RICE**

BORN/RESIDENCE: Langhorne, Pa.
BIRTH DATE: Langhorne, Pa.

BIRTH DATE: Aug. 23, 1981

AGE: 16

CLUB: Bill's Angels

COACH: Bill Hill

SCHOOL:

Langhorne High School

REGION: Gymnastics

1991: Age 10

FAVORITE EVENT: Floor exercise

HABITS:

Sleeping, swimming, reading time with books, listening to music

SENIOR WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM**8****ALYSSA BECKERMAN**

BORN/RESIDENCE: Wyoming, Wyo.
BIRTH DATE: Jan. 22, 1982 AGE: 17

CLUB: Cincinnati

Gymnastics Academy

COACH:

Mary Lee Tracy

& Steve Strow

SCHOOL: Wyoming

High School

REGION: Gymnastics

1991: Age 10

FAVORITE EVENT: Floor exercise

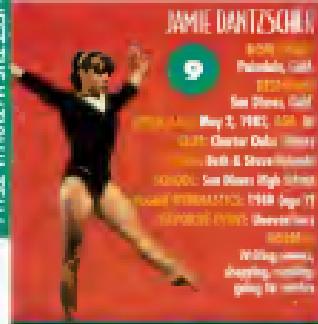
HABITS:

Sleeping, eating, reading time with books, listening to music

JAMIE DANTZSCHER

9

HOMETOWN & RESIDENCE: Potomac, Md.
BIRTH DATE: Sept. 2, 1982
AGE: 16
CLUB: Cecilia's Gymnastics
COACHES: Matt & Steve Wissman
SCHOOL: Seneca High School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 2000 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Horizontal Bar
HOBBIES: Shopping, dancing, reading



CORY FRITZINGER

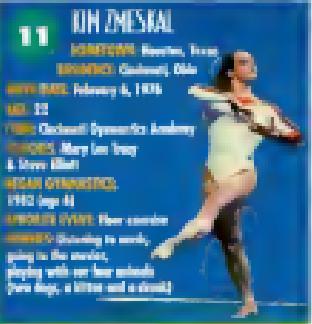
10

HOMETOWN & RESIDENCE: Virginia Beach, Va.
BIRTH DATE: March 27, 1982
AGE: 16
CLUB: Cecilia's
COACH: Matt & Steve Wissman
SCHOOL: Chesapeake High School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1998 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Horizontal Bar
HOBBIES: Music



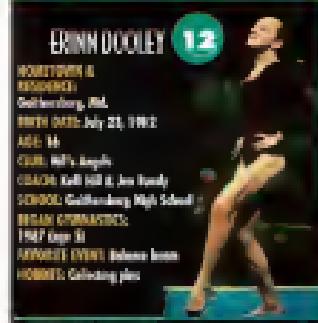
11 JON ZIMESKAL

HOMETOWN: Round Rock, Texas
RESIDENCE: Cedar Park, Md.
BIRTH DATE: February 4, 1983
AGE: 22
CLUB: Cecilia's Gymnastics Academy
COACHES: Mary Lee Tracy & Steve Elliot
SCHOOL: Gymnastics
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1993 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Floor exercise
HOBBIES: Shopping, reading books, going to movies, playing with our two schools (two dogs, a lizard and a chinchilla)



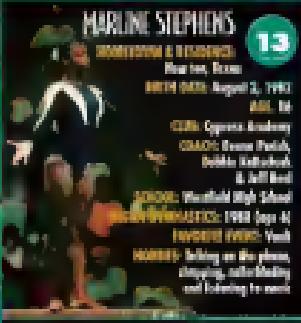
12 ERIN DUCLEY

HOMETOWN & RESIDENCE: Gaithersburg, Md.
BIRTH DATE: July 23, 1982
AGE: 16
CLUB: NPG, Annapolis
COACH: Matt Hill & Jim Riedy
SCHOOL: Gaithersburg High School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1997 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Balance Beam
HOBBIES: Collecting pins



13 MARLINE STEPHENS

HOMETOWN & RESIDENCE: New Braunfels, Texas
BIRTH DATE: August 2, 1982
AGE: 16
CLUB: Cypress Academy
COACH: Bruce Pritch, Debbie Kelliebeck & Jeff Reid
SCHOOL: Westfield High School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1998 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Vault
HOBBIES: Shopping on the phone, dancing, rollerblading and listening to music



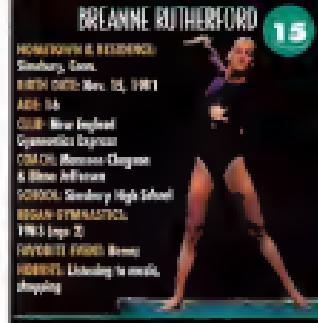
14 BRITTANY SMITH

HOMETOWN: Houston, Texas
RESIDENCE: Alief, Md.
BIRTH DATE: Oct. 30, 1983
AGE: 15 (as of Oct. 30)
CLUB: Cecilia's Gymnastics
COACHES: Mary Lee Tracy & Steve Elliot
SCHOOL: Alief High School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1997 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Beam
HOBBIES: Dancing, rollerblading, going to movies with friends



15 BREANNE BUTHERFORD

HOMETOWN & RESIDENCE: Stanley, Tenn.
BIRTH DATE: Nov. 12, 1981
AGE: 16
CLUB: New England Gymnastics Academy
COACH: Kristen Chappelle & Diane Adair
SCHOOL: Stanley High School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1997 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Beam
HOBBIES: Listening to music, shopping



16 SHREBHA LEMLEY

HOMETOWN: Hoboken, N.J.
BIRTH DATE: November, Pa.
BIRTH DATE: Nov. 1, 1982
AGE: 16
CLUB: NJ Club, Parkside
COACH: Bill Brown, Steven Stevens & Jack Carter
SCHOOL: Bergen Valley High School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1997 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Beam
HOBBIES: Collecting key chains



17 CHELSEA BYRD

HOMETOWN & RESIDENCE: Park City, Utah
BIRTH DATE: August 22, 1982
AGE: 16
CLUB: River City Gymnastics
COACH: Jeni Frenzinger
SCHOOL: Mill's University Studio Magnet School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1998 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Vault
HOBBIES: Dancing, going to movies, listening to music, reading



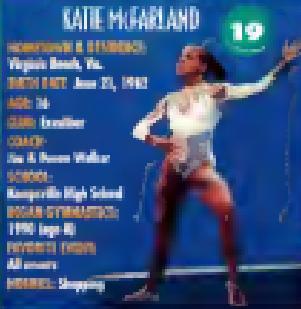
18 BETSY HANH

HOMETOWN: Warrenton, Va.
RESIDENCE: Falls Church, Va.
BIRTH DATE: June 8, 1982
AGE: 16
CLUB: University of Potomac
COACHES: Dennis Hartman, Jeff Marshall & Bob Moore
SCHOOL: University of Potomac
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1998 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Balance Beam
HOBBIES: Shopping, collecting plates



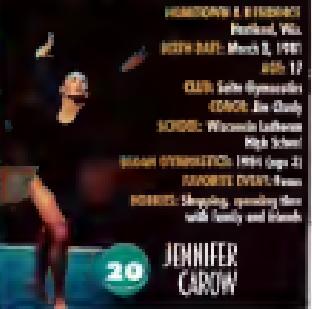
19 KATE MURKLAND

HOMETOWN & RESIDENCE: Virginia Beach, Va.
BIRTH DATE: June 23, 1982
AGE: 16
CLUB: Cecilia's
COACH: Matt & Steve Wissman
SCHOOL: Kemperlee High School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1998 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Beam
HOBBIES: Shopping, spending time with family and friends



20 JENNIFER CAROW

HOMETOWN & RESIDENCE: Portland, Md.
BIRTH DATE: March 2, 1982
AGE: 17
CLUB: Cecilia's Gymnastics
COACH: Jim Gandy
SCHOOL: Whitman-Luthers High School
NEARST GYMNASTICS: 1998 (age 11)
FAVORITE EVENT: Beam
HOBBIES: Shopping, spending time with family and friends





**1998 JOHN HANCOCK
U.S. GYMNASTICS
CHAMPIONSHIPS**
AUGUST 14-22 ■ INDIANAPOLIS, IN

JUNIOR
WOMEN'S
SINGLES FINALS

JUNIOR WOMAN'S
ALL-AROUND FINALS

August 19, 2012 ■ 1000 WORDS ■ 15

JUNIOR WOMEN'S EVENT FINALS		JUNIOR WOMEN'S ALL-AROUND FINALS					
NAME/CLUB	YR	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	AA	
WALK							
1. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.600	9.575	9.525	9.500	38.600	
2. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.575	9.550	9.525	9.500	37.550	
3. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.550	9.525	9.500	9.475	37.525	
4. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.525	9.500	9.475	9.450	37.475	
5. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.500	9.475	9.450	9.425	37.425	
UNEVEN BAR							
1. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.600	9.575	9.525	9.500	38.600	
2. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.575	9.550	9.525	9.500	37.550	
3. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.550	9.525	9.500	9.475	37.525	
4. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.525	9.500	9.475	9.450	37.475	
5. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.500	9.475	9.450	9.425	37.425	
BEAM							
1. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.600	9.575	9.525	9.500	38.600	
2. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.575	9.550	9.525	9.500	37.550	
3. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.550	9.525	9.500	9.475	37.525	
4. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.525	9.500	9.475	9.450	37.475	
5. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.500	9.475	9.450	9.425	37.425	
BALANCE BEAM							
1. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.600	9.575	9.525	9.500	38.600	
2. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.575	9.550	9.525	9.500	37.550	
3. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.550	9.525	9.500	9.475	37.525	
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5. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.500	9.475	9.450	9.425	37.425	
ROPE DIXIE							
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2. Abby Poell Sparta Jr.	2003	9.575	9.550	9.525	9.500	37.550	
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10 of 10



Page 10

JUNIOR MEMPHIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNIOR MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

CLASS 1 UNIT SESSIONS 16-17

CLASS II UNIT NUMBER 14-15

NAME/CLASS	IS	PS	MS	PS2	PS3	AS
1. Bob Barker	0.250	1.750	0.500	0.125	0.250	0.250
Missouri 500	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	2.125
						61.250
2. Paul Newman	0.750	0.125	2.750	0.500	0.500	0.500
Missouri 500	0.750	0.125	2.750	0.500	0.500	0.500
						60.500
3. Gold Digger	1.000	0.250	1.750	0.500	0.500	0.500
Missouri 500	1.250	0.250	1.750	0.500	0.500	0.500
						60.500
4. Gold Digger	1.000	0.250	1.750	0.500	0.500	0.500
Missouri 500	1.250	0.250	1.750	0.500	0.500	0.500
						60.500
5. Angelo Dundee	1.000	1.250	2.750	0.750	0.750	0.750
Missouri 500	1.250	1.250	2.750	0.750	0.750	0.750
						60.750
6. Jim Green	1.000	0.250	1.750	0.500	0.500	0.500
Missouri 500	1.250	0.250	1.750	0.500	0.500	0.500
						60.500
7. Sandy Laddie	1.250	1.250	1.750	0.750	0.750	0.750
Missouri 500	1.250	1.250	1.750	0.750	0.750	0.750
						60.750
8. Long Beach	0.500	0.500	1.750	0.125	0.125	0.125
Missouri 500	0.500	0.500	1.750	0.125	0.125	0.125
						60.400

State-of-the-art technologies are being developed to detect forged signatures. Some systems automatically evaluate the quality of the scanned print, others of scanned lines and characters, some validate both.



U.S. CHALLENGE

JULY 11-12 IN MONTVILLE, NEW JERSEY

COMPETED ALL-AROUND TEAMNOMES

CHAMPION

NAME	STATE
1. Shelly Linn	Mass.
2. Alison Cook	Conn.

CHAMPION

NAME	STATE
1. Karen Lee	Conn.

CHAMPION

NAME	STATE
1. Kelly Kirby	Mass.

CHAMPION

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1. Amy Miller	Conn.

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GREGORY HOGAH
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Gregory, 11, was a Team MI gymnast at Level 9 Gymnastics Academy during the 1991-92 season. At the State Championships he placed first all-around and was 4th in the vault. Gregory also took first plus all-around in all six of his other competitions this year. Gregory takes his time to play soccer and is an accomplished student. He looks forward to competing in the Class 9 meet this year.

FACETS
in the gym



JEENIE JO SHANKS
DULUTH, VIRGINIA

Jeenie is 11, a Level 10 gymnast at the Duluth YMCA. She won the State West, Junior Gold and all-around with a score of 23.45 and first place on floor, bars and low beam. She placed fourth in the state competition. At the Region 10 meet, Jeenie took first all-around with a 22.01. She is part of a young group and has been placed first in the invitational competition. She competes for Duluth Gymnastics, Duluth Bulldogs and Duluth Stars at Duluth Gymnastics in Duluth, Minnesota. She also does the Lightening group.



STACIE & STEPHANIE WHITTEN
WATERVILLE, MAINE

Stepie (left) is 9 years old and competing at Level 4 in the YMCA program in Waterville. She placed first, fourth and fifth in almost all of her competitions, competing against 9 and 10 year olds. Stephie, 10, is a Level 5 at the YMCA in Waterville. She is good and has Level 6 but has to wait until after 11 years old to compete in that level. In her free time she likes reading, swimming, tennis, basketball, tennis and BMX racing.



KAYLA STARK
ROANOKE,
VIRGINIA

Kayla, 10, is a gymnast at Brooks Gymnastics Academy. She competes with Sammey and Taylor (left). She just started in a Level 4, has placed second in her first meet for the 10-11 year old. At the Region 10 State Championships, only her third competition, she won the all-around by placing first in floor exercise, balance beam, vault and second on the uneven bars. Kayla loves to practice to music by TLC, Britney, Gwen and Britney.



BRITTANY GILDON
SAN RAMON,
CALIFORNIA

Brittany, 9, is a Level 9 gymnast at Brooks Gymnastics in Concord, Calif. She won the 10-11 floor, vault and was 2nd in cushion by Vicki Ross, Diane Givens and Diane Schutte. She competes in a Level 7 National Gymnastics Competition in Lakewood, Florida, where she has first in first awards with a 15-16 and took third in floor with a 9.10. She also qualified fourth in the all-around with a 24.075 for fourth.



JESSIE KITZEN-ABELSON
COLLEGEVILLE,
PENNSYLVANIA

In her first full year of competition as a Level 10, Jessie, 10, placed fourth all-around in the State Championships with a 24.25. In the Region 10 Championships, her vault, uneven bars and floor all-around were 1st. Her most successful competition was the YMCA Invitational where she won first all-around and first floor at parallel bars, floor and rings and second on high bar and floor. Jessie trains at the YMCA Premier Gymnastics Training Center in Collegeville. She's headed to Disney World.

Would you like to be featured in the *Facets* in the *State section*? Send a recent photo and a copy of your information to: YMCA Gymnastics, *Facets* in the Gym, P.O. Box 1442, 1904 15th Street, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46225.

Please use one photo and write in color. Color photos cannot be returned. We'll return a free article for publication in the magazine and keep them and send you a copy today. What's waiting to meet you!



AMARA DEFILIPPO
GARDENA, CALIFORNIA

Amara, 10, has been a gymnast for approximately half years. She has earned places on vault and third place in beam at the State Championships held in Long Beach, California on March 28, 1992. With a 10.81 score in the all-around, she took sixth place and won the Beam. Amara is coached by Karen and Michael Mandelbaum at Future Stars Gymnastics Academy in Gardena, California. She's looking forward to this year's competition as a Level 10.



ANTHONY L. MAY JR.
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Anthony, 11, is a Level 10 gymnast at the YMCA Gymnastics Academy. Anthony is a member of the 10-11 year old National Future Stars team. His performances in a Class 10 Anthony showed his all-around at the State State Championships. He also won the gold medal in high bar and vault. Anthony is a 10-year-old who has won 15-20 hours a week with the coaches Bevly Ward and Vicki Ross.

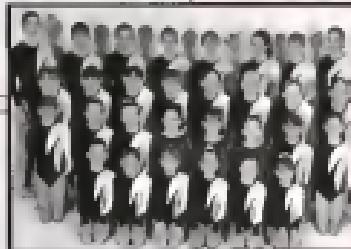
Dear USA Gymnastics,
My husband and I coach at Miss
Valerie's Gymnastics in Oklahoma
City. Since we've been here, you've given our
team lots of support, including
the tournaments. Their last assign-
ment was to build off a Recipe for
You to be a Winner! Some of
our girls really enjoyed the tips
and some others didn't care.
Sincerely,
Valerie Carter

Dear DONOR

I am all your Biggest
Fan, is it true that your
dad beat you to a different
level when you were little?
How many medals, ribbons
and trophies have you won?
I got one gold medal, four
ribbons and one trophy
Michael Harper
London, Ont.

Dear Michaela,
My dad didn't tell me to
the catherdral, but he did
let me bring down the
catherdral to my gal
when I was very young.
I have never visited St
Paul's, although I've just
graduated. I haven't comp-
reled it. I don't have enough
time. I wish you continued
success and hope that you
continue writing novels,
shorts and biographies.

HOW TO MAKE A PERFECT SWIMMAGE
First, you start with a regular swimwear. Next, you wrap in 2 pieces of ATTITUDE. Then you need to add a cup of DETERMINATION and FLUIDITY. The swimwear can improve. You also need to add a package of the Blue Dan. PERSEVERANCE, DEDICATION, DETERMINATION! Last but not least, you need to have a portion of COURAGE, and CONFIDENCE. Then off you go to the pool, you need to have a swimmer, and you need to have a swimmer's attitude. Then you're off to a swimming pool. By Great Shape



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Use all ingredients thoroughly mixing well to insure
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and you feed it. This mixture is ready for immediate use and be sure
to use completely (Failure to use can result in a very stale)
Cannabis use of this mixture will always produce a thrill!

Dear DOMINIQUE MOCHAMA,
You're 10 years old & you're in 5th grade at American Gymnastics
Center in Lexington, Kentucky. I planted geraniums at my
old "home" in
Lexington.

CHALK TALK

Dear Dr. GRIFFITHS,
I enjoyed your article on the Chinese
in the July/August 1 issue very
much. In 1965 I had the
privilege of working for the
U.S. Symmetrica Foundation in
helping the Chinese Team to come
to the United States. Being in
Californian America (then in Bush
Francisco) and being in China for
three years, I had the
privilege of meeting the
Chinese a plenty of times in 1965 and
again in 1969 in the same location
in China.



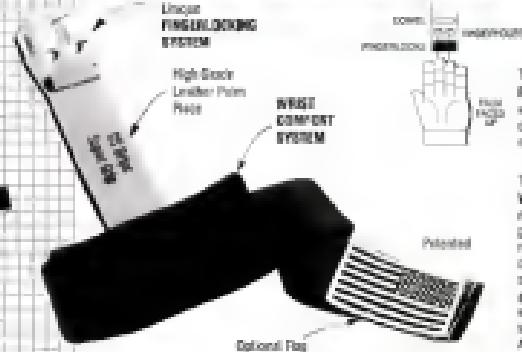
Dear Doug,
If you really want something it's
never too late, as don't be dis-
couraged. Think positively and
enjoy what you've done!

If you have a question or comment, send it to:
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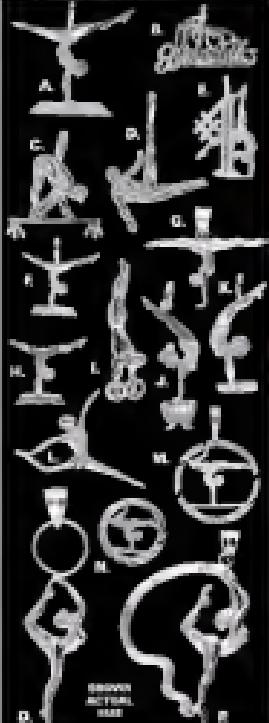
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Scrapbook of Champions

Sierra
developed a
love forastics
very early in life.

At age 5, Sierra's at a
friend's birthday party.

Sierra
received
ballet
tuition
and a role
in
Giselle
at age 5.

Sierra dressed up as a
Hornet for Halloween
when she was 11.

This photo of Sierra, age 11,
was used on the back-cover
for a State Meet T-shirt.

Have you ever wondered
what top gymnasts in the
U.S. looked like in childhood?
Perhaps you wondered
if they were always so
talented and lean?

For the same, USA Gymnastics has taken photos
directly from Sierra Sappunar's scrapbook. Sierra is
18 years old and a graduate of Cincinnati Gymnastics
Academy. She's had a successful and exciting
1998: She was a member of the gold medal team
at the Pacific Alliance Championships in Canada
and placed fifth all-around at the Goodwill Games
in New York. Sierra won the bronze medal on
bars at the Novosibirsk Tournament in Russia
and was a member of the gold-medal team
at the International Team Championships
in Tennessee.

Let's take a look at Sierra as he was growing up!

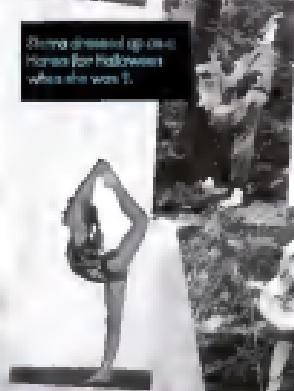
Three-year-old
Sierra enjoyed
playing with her
sabotage patch-hog.



At age 7,
Sierra was
the winner
of the 31
"Strides for
Life" race.



Sierra, 13, is
playing on her
background
trampoline.



Here's a second
photo of Sierra
with her coach,
Hong Lin Tracy.



SIERRA SAPPUNAR

Birth Date: January 31, 1982

Residence:
Sausalito, California
Residence: Wyoming, Ohio
Gym: Cincinnati Gymnastics
Coach: Mary Lee Tracy and Steve Tracy

Begin Gymnastics: 1987
Rings Gymnastics:
Rhythmic: Croaking,
swimming, hanging out
with friends and family

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A Book on Dominique Moceanu!



You'll love the colorful and revealing photographs in *Dominique's*. This book is about the life of a gymnast, the hard, but rewarding, work from level 3 to elite in only two years, her relationships and struggles with coaches, and her fight to be a gold medalist. *Dominique Moceanu: A Gymnastics Biography* is \$13.95 + \$3.50 s/h.

A New Book by Shannon Miller!



In this book designed to teach athletes how to cope and succeed, Shannon shares her experiences as a gymnast. *Winning Every Day* is \$13.95 + \$3.00 s/h. Order online at www.stratfordbooks.com. *Shannon Miller: America's Most Decorated Gymnast* is \$11.95 + \$3.50 s/h. *Leading the Way First by Karen Lang* is \$11.95 + \$3.50 s/h. *The Magnificent Seven* is \$13.95 + \$3.50 s/h. *Gymnastics: History and Record Book* is \$13.95 + \$3.50 s/h. *Women's Gymnastics and Women's Gymnastics in History* (Vol. 1) are each \$13.95 + \$3.50 s/h. *Eating with America's Athletes* and *The Athlete's Cookbook* are each \$14.95 + \$3.50 s/h. *How to Develop the Biggest* is \$13.95 + \$3.00 s/h. *A Healthy Life for Girls* is \$14.95 + \$3.50 s/h. *The Logic Behind an Athlete's Life* is \$14.95 + \$3.50 s/h. *Kirville's: Heart of Gold*, *Dominique Moceanu: An American Champion*, *Olga Korbut: Olympic Gold and Twice Silver*, *Gold Medal Olympic Gymnast* are each \$14.95 + \$3.50 s/h.

A Biography on Kim Zmeskal!



This book about the first American ever to win World indoor championships and hundreds of medals by Kim Zmeskal. According to David Zmeskal, Kim's father, the book's "overall theme—determination, persistence, and dedication to hard work, never giving up." *Kim Zmeskal: Determination and Success* is \$14.95 + \$3.50 s/h.

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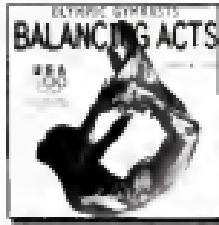
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USA GYMNASTICS NATIONAL CONGRESS

By Lynn Peacock

Nearly 2,000 gymnastics professionals gathered in Indianapolis, Ind., August 19-22 for the National Congress, which was held in conjunction with the John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships.

Congress is an event where gymnastics coaches, judges, officials, writers and administrators of the sport gather together to share, share ideas and get updated on the sport of gymnastics.

This year's Congress was one of the best attended in the history of the event. The exhibit hall was bigger and better than ever and exhibitors tallied record sales while displaying their wares at the Indiana Convention Center.

There were more than 150 sessions that occurred throughout the three-day event which covered men's, women's, rhythmic, general gymnastics, preschool, sport acrobatics, business, education, and alternative topics.

The dress proximity between the hotels, restaurants, shops, Congress and Indianapolis' venues was also convenient for those in attendance.

Whether it is easy, the planning is already underway for the 1999 USA Gymnastics National Congress in Indianapolis. See you there.



USA GYMNASTICS CONGRESS

12

HOOTON



1998 CEREMONY OF HONORS

The 15th Annual Ceremony of Honors was held in conjunction with Congress. Members of the gymnastics family were honored for their contributions. Below is a list of the award recipients:

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Men's — Mattie Whitaker

Women — Kristin Matulity

Men's — Maine Wilson

Women — Kristin Matulity

SERVICE/STAR AWARDS

Team — Callahan-Molnar

Individual — Tonya Chapman

Men's — Harold Frey

Men's — Kevin Kamp

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Men's — Kristin Matulity

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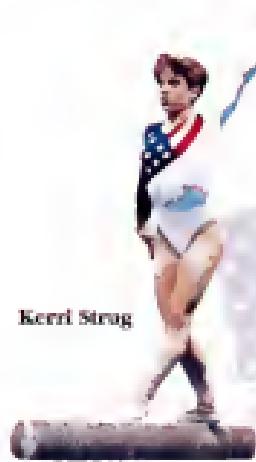
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Kerri Strug

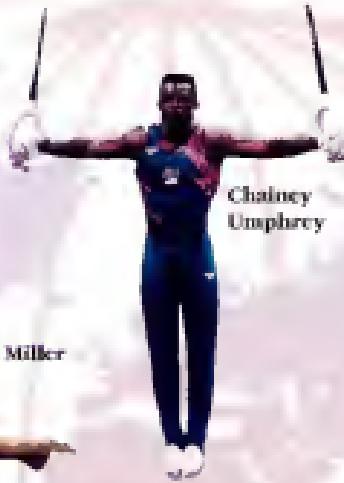
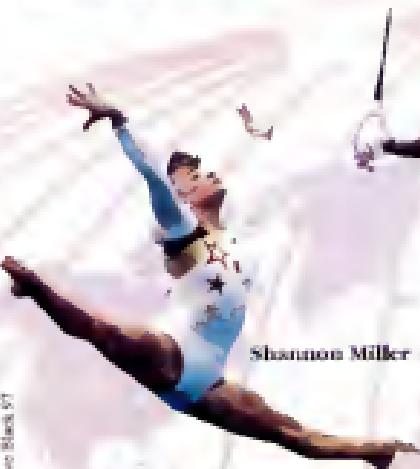
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